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Letter dated 19 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest incident of Palestinian terrorism directed against Israel.

Last night, 18 October 2001, a group of seven Israeli hikers on a tour in the Judean Desert were fired upon by Palestinian gunmen at a lookout point near the Dir Mirsaba Monastery. The hikers tried to escape in two separate cars but were chased by the gunmen. Lior Kaufman was shot in the head by the attackers and died shortly afterwards. Two others, Shlomo Mishki and Amnon Shakouri, suffered light to moderate wounds. The perpetrators then escaped to territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

Yesterday's murder — which comes amid heightened violence that includes the murder of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi, the resumption of gun and mortar fire on the southern Jerusalem neighbourhood of Gilo, and an attack on the Jewish holy site of Rachel's Tomb — represents yet another incident in the ongoing Palestinian terrorist campaign that has been detailed in my letters dated 17 October 2001 (A/56/483-S/2001/975), 8 October 2001 (A/56/450-S/2001/948), 5 October 2001 (A/56/444-S/2001/943), 3 October 2001 (A/56/438-S/2001/938), 24 September 2001 (A/56/406-S/2001/907), 20 September 2001 (A/56/386-S/2001/892), 17 September 2001 (A/56/367-S/2001/875), 7 September 2001 (A/56/346-S/2001/858), 4 September 2001 (A/56/331-S/2001/840), 30 August 2001 (A/56/325-S/2001/834), 27 August 2001 (A/56/324-S/2001/825), 13 August 2001 (A/56/294-S/2001/787), 9 August 2001 (A/56/286-S/2001/780), 8 August 2001 (A/56/280-S/2001/775), 6 August 2001 (A/56/272-S/2001/768), 27 July 2001 (A/56/225-S/2001/743), 26 July 2001 (A/56/223-S/2001/737), 17 July 2001 (A/56/201-S/2001/706), 13 July 2001 (A/56/184-S/2001/696), 3 July 2001 (A/56/138-S/2001/662), 2 July 2001 (A/56/131-S/2001/656), 21 June 2001 (A/56/119-S/2001/619), 19 June 2001 (A/56/98-S/2001/611), 18 June 2001 (A/56/97-S/2001/604), 13 June 2001 (A/56/92-S/2001/585), 11 June 2001 (A/56/91-S/2001/580), 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-

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S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

The Government of Israel holds the Palestinian Authority responsible for the murder of Lior Kaufman in the light of its role in orchestrating and inciting an ongoing campaign of violence and terrorism against Israel and its citizens and its refusal to bring the perpetrators of such acts to justice. This campaign — which results from relentless incitement in the official Palestinian media, the collusion between the Palestinian leadership and recognized terrorist groups, the release of scores of terrorists from Palestinian prisons, and the atmosphere of hatred of Jews and Israelis that has been created by the Palestinian Authority — is being conducted in grave and flagrant violation of signed commitments reached between Israel and the Palestinian leadership.

It is shocking that, as the international community unifies in the fight against terror, the Palestinian leadership continues to support and harbour terrorists in its territory. Israel calls on the Palestinian leadership to adhere to its obligations to renounce the use of violence and terrorism, to control and punish all Palestinian elements that continue to engage in such practices, and to resolve all outstanding negotiations through peaceful dialogue and negotiations. Israel further calls on the international community, in the context of its global campaign against terrorism, to bring full pressure to bear on, and take decisive action against, all States and entities that support terrorism or are actively engaged in terrorist operations.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative